## **Electronic Supplementary Information**

## Electronic excited states of guanine-cytosine hairpins and duplexes studied by fluorescence spectroscopy

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Table ESI-1. m/z values for oligomer sequences determined by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry.

| Sequences | Calculated | Found  | Sequences | Calculated | Found   |
|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|------------|---------|
| d2        | 556.4      | 556.7  | hp2       | 1518.8     | 1519.2  |
| d6        | 1793.2     | 1793.8 | hp6       | 3992.4     | 3998.1  |
| d10       | 3030.0     | 3031.2 | hp10      | 6465.9     | 6466.8  |
|           |            |        | hp20      | 12649.8    | 12644.1 |

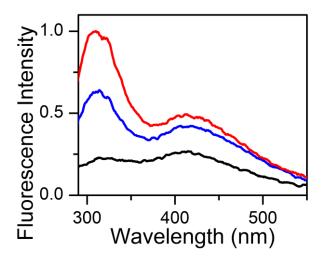


Figure ESI-1. Fluorescence spectra of hp20 before annealing (black), upon one annealing cycle (blue) and two repeated annealing cycles (red);  $\lambda_{ex}$ = 255 nm.

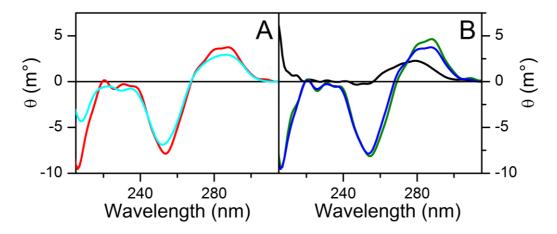


Figure ESI-2. CD spectra of A) hp10 (red) and hp20 (cyan) and B) d2 (black), d6 (green) and d10 (blue).

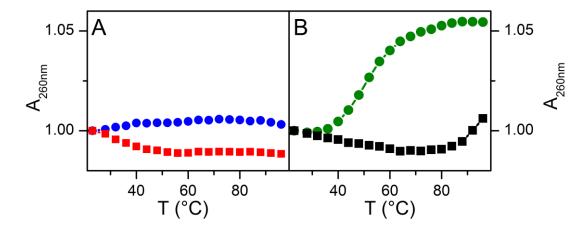


Figure ESI-3. Temperature dependence of the absorbance at 260 nm of A) d2 (blue) and hp2 (red), B) and d6 (green) and hp6 (black).

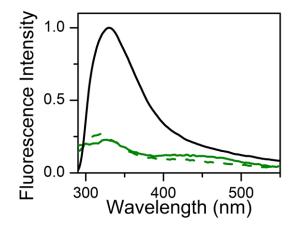


Figure ESI-4. Fluorescence spectra ( $\lambda_{ex}$ = 255 nm) of hp6 (green, line), d6 (green, dash) and an equimolar mixture of dGMP and dCMP (line, black).